

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS.

EXTRA.--GREELEY'S REPORT.

THE MINES AND MINERS OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA.

VOL. 1. CHERRY CREEK, K.T., SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1859. NO. 6

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS.

WM. N. BYERS,
THOS. GIBSON,
EDITORS & PROPRIETORS.

THE KANSAS GOLD MINES.

We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Williams, of the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express, for the following report from Messrs. Greeley, Richardson, and Villard, which will give satisfaction to the public mind, and at once set at rest the cry of "humbug" reiterated by the returning emigration from this region. The names of the gentlemen assigned to this report are sufficient to give it credence without further comment from us; and the indiscreet assertions of Mr. Williams to get it before the public are commendable.

DENVER CITY, K. T., June 10th, 1859.

GENTLEMEN:—Will you do me the favor to furnish me, for publication, such facts in reference to the Gold Mines as you obtained upon your recent visit to them, in company with myself and others? We desire that the facts should be presented to the public as they exist.

Yours respectfully,

R. D. WILLIAMS,
Agent of Jones & Hunt's P. P. Express. Co.
Messrs. HORACE GREELEY, of the N. Y. "Tribune"; A. D. RICHARDSON, of the Boston "Journal"; and HENRY VILLARD, of the Cincinnati "Commercial".

DENVER CITY, K. T., June 10th, 1859.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your favor of this morning, we herewith submit a report, written at the "Gregory Digging," of such facts as we witnessed there, and obtained from the lips of the miners. We have endeavored to make it definite and specific as possible, and to give an unbiased statement of the facts in condition and progress of the first important gold discoveries in the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

We desire to acknowledge your many courtesies to the trip.

Respectfully,
HORACE GREELEY,
A. D. RICHARDSON,
HENRY VILLARD.
R. D. WILLIAMS, Esq.

GREGORY'S DIGGING, near Clear Creek, in the Rocky Mountains, June 9th, 1859.

The undersigned, none of them miners, nor directly interested in mining, but now here for the express purpose of ascertaining and setting forth the truth with regard to a subject of deep and general interest, as to which the widest and most diversity of assertion and opinion is known to exist, unite in the following statement:

We have this day personally visited nearly all the mines or claims already opened in this valley, (that of a little stream running into Clear Creek at this point); have witnessed the operation of digging, transporting, and washing the vein-stone, (a partially decomposed, or rotten quartz, running in regular veins from south-west to north-east,) shattered with of an impure granite, have seen the gold plainly visible in the riffles of nearly every sluice, and in nearly every pan of the rotten quartz washed in our presence; have seen gold, (but merely visible to the naked eye, in pieces of the quartz not yet fully decomposed, and have obtained from the few who have already sluiced in operation accounts of their several products, as follows:

Zeigler, Spain, & Co., (from South

Bend, Ind.) have run a sluice, with some interruptions, for the last three weeks; they are four in company, with one hired man. They have taken out a little over three thousand pennyweights of gold, estimated by them as worth at least \$43,000; their first day's work produced \$21; their highest was \$495.

Sprio, Henderson & Co., (from Farmington, Indiana,) have run their sluice six days in all with four men—one to dig, one to carry, and two to wash; four days last week produced \$607; Monday of this week \$350; the four following it was promised us, but, by accident, failed to be received. Have just sold half their claim, (a full claim is 50 feet by 100, for \$2500.

Deftrees & Co., (from South Bend, Ind.) have run a small sluice eight days, with the following results: first day, \$66; second day, \$80; third day, \$85; fourth day, \$305; (the four following it was promised us, but, by accident, failed to be received.) Have just sold half their claim, (a full claim is 50 feet by 100, for \$2500.

Shears & Co., (from Fort Calhoun, Nebraska,) have run one sluice two hours the first, (part of a day); produced \$300; second, (full day), \$343; third, (in day), \$916; all taken from within three feet of the surface; vein a foot wide on the surface; widened to eighteen inches at a depth of three feet.

Brown & Co., (from De Kalb Co., Ind.) have been one week on their claim; carry their dirt half a mile; have worked their sluice a day and a half; produced \$280; have taken out quartz specimens containing from 50 cents to \$13 each in gold; vein from 5 to 10 feet wide.

Casto, Kendall & Co., (from Butler Co., Iowa,) reached Denver, March 23d; drove the first wagon to these diggings; have been here five weeks; worked first on a claim, on which they ran a sluice but one day; produced \$235; sold their claim for \$5000; are now working a claim on the Hunter land, have only sluiced one (this) day; three men employed; produced \$85.

Bates & Co., one sluice, run half a day; produced \$135.

Culman, King & Co., one sluice, run half a day; produced \$75.

Shorts & Collier, bought our claims seven days since of Casto, Kendall & Co., for \$5000; \$500 down, and the balance as fast as taken out. Have not yet got our sluice in operation. Mr. Dean, from Iowa, on the 6th inst., washed from single pan of dirt taken from the claim, \$17.50. Have been offered \$10,000 for the claim.

S. G. Jones & Co., from Eastern Kansas, have run our sluices two days, with three men; yield \$225 per day. Think the quartz generally in this vicinity is gold-bearing. Have never seen a piece crushed that did not yield gold.

A. F. Wright & Co., from Elkhor, Co. Ind. Sluice but just in operation; are not yet nettled in its products. Our claim prospects from \$3 cents to \$1.25 to the pan.

John H. Gregory, from Gordon Co.,

Georgia. Left home last season, en route for Frazier River, was detained by a succession of accidents at Ft. Laramie, and wintered there. Meanwhile, heard of the discoveries of gold on the South Platte, and started on a prospecting tour on the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, early in January. Prospected in almost every valley, from the Cacha la Poudre creek, to Pike's Peak, tracing many streams to their sources.—Early in May arrived on Clear Creek, at the foot of the mountain, 30 miles Southeast of this place. There fell in with the Deftrees & Zeigler Indian Companies, and William Fouts, of Missouri. We all started up Clear Creek, prospecting. Arrived in this vicinity, May 6; the ice and snow prevented us from prospecting far below the surface, but the first pan of surface dirt, on the original Gregory claim, yielded \$4.—Encouraged by this success, we all walked on chains, found the "lead" consisting of burnt quartz, resembling the Georgia Mines, in which I had previously worked. Snow and ice prevented the regular working of the sluice until May 15th. From then until the 23d, I worked it five days with two hands, netted, \$972.

Soon after, I sold my claim for \$21,000 the parties buying to pay me by deducting their expenses, all they take from the claims to the amount of \$500 per week, until the whole is paid. Since that time, I have been prospecting for other prospects, at about \$200 per day.—Have struck another lead on the opposite side of the mountain, where I washed \$14, out of a single pan.

Some forty or fifty claims commenced, are not yet in operation; but the owners inform us that their "prospecting" has been successful. In short, the "leads" as the "leads" are all found on the hills, many of the miners are constructing trenches to carry water to them, instead of building their sluices in their ravines, and carrying the dirt either in wagons, or sacks. Many persons who have come here without provisions or money, are compelled to work as common laborers, at from \$1 to \$3 per day and board, until they can procure means of subsistence for the time necessary to prospecting, hauling sluices, etc. Others, not having gold the third day of digging the work necessary to obtaining it, leave the mines in disgust, after a very short trial, declaring there is no gold here in paying quantities. It should be remembered, that the discoveries made thus far, are the result of but few weeks' labor.

In nearly every instance, the gold is estimated by the miners as worth \$200.00 per ounce, which, for gold collected by a quicksilver, is certainly a high valuation, though this is undoubtedly of very great purity. The reason can be readily ascertained, if he sees fit. We have no data on which to act in the premises.

The wall rock is generally shattered, so that it, like the veinstone, is readily taken out with the pick and shovel. In a single instance only did we hear of wall-rock too hard for this.

Of the veinstone, probably not more than one-half is so decomposed that the gold can be washed from it. The residue of the quartz is shoveled out the sluices, and is then crushed and washed hereafter. The miners estimate this as equally rich with that which has "rotted" so that the gold may be washed from it here, as they realize, pay it, but half the gold dug by them. This seems probable, but its truth remains to be tested.

It should be borne in mind that, while the miners here now labor under many "obvious disadvantages, which must disappear with the growth of their experience and the improvement of their productive machinery, they at the same time enjoy advantages which cannot be retained indefinitely, nor rendered universal. They

are all working very near a small mountain stream, which affords them an excellent supply of water for washing at a very cheap rate. In fact, the water, as streams are very common here, the leads stretch over rugged hills and considerable mountains, down which the vein-stone must be carried to water, at a serious cost. It does not seem probable that the thousands of claims already made or being made on these leads can be worked so profitably in the summer as they already are in operation. We hear already of many who have worked their claims for days (by passing) without having "raised the color," so the phrase is, that is, without having found any gold whatever. We presume thousands are destined to encounter taxing and utter disappointment, quartz veins which bear no gold being a prominent feature of the geology of all this region.

We cannot conclude this statement without expressing our earnest opinion that a removal of the infatuation which impelled thousands to rush to this region a month or two since, only to turn back before finding it, or to carry away unimpaired by after more hands, they cannot. Gold-mining is a business which eminently requires of its votaries capital, experience, energy, endurance, and in which the highest qualities do not always command success. There may be hundreds of ravines in these mountains as rich in gold as the one in which we write, and there are probably as many more as there are in which we do not know that any such have been discovered. There is a said to be, five hundred people already in this ravine, and the highest qualities do not always command success. Tens of thousands more have been passed by us on our rapid journey to reach the great heart of us on their way, hurried by other roads, and by railroads, crossing countless unbridged water-courses, always steep-banked and often unsteady, and at times so swollen by rains as to be utterly impassable by wagons. Part of this distance is a desert, yielding grass, mud, and water only at intervals of several miles, and then very scantily. To attempt to cross this distance on foot is madness—suicide—murder. To cross it with teams in midsummer, when the water-courses are usually dry, and the grass eaten up, is possible only to those who know just where to look for grass and water, and where water must be carried along to preserve life. A few months hence, probably by the middle of October, this whole Alpine region will be swarmed under and frozen up, so as to put a stop to the working of almost all of its mines, and, possibly, also, then, for a period of at least six months, will be neither employment, food, nor shelter within five hundred miles, for thousands of people, who are now in the delusion that gold may be picked up here like pebbles on the sea-shore, and that when they arrive here, even though with all the means of subsistence, they will find great disappointment, great suffering, are inevitable; few can escape the latter who arrive at Denver City after September 1st, and are not able to support them in a very dear country, at least through a long winter. We charge those who manage the telegraph not to diffuse any of our statements, or to publish anything substantially the whole; and we express generally to unite with us in warning the whole people against another rush of September gold-miners, as the result of this long-rage a rash step to be far more destructive of property and life.

Respectfully,
HORACE GREELEY,
A. D. RICHARDSON,
HENRY VILLARD.